

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
CROWNED RIDGE WIND, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF)
A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN GRANT AND)
CODINGTON COUNTIES)
)

**ORDER APPROVING THIRD-
PARTY'S CREDENTIALS AND
LEK SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

EL19-003

On January 30, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for a Facility Permit for a wind energy facility (Application) from Crowned Ridge Wind, LLC (Crowned Ridge or Applicant) to construct a wind energy conversion facility to be located in Grant County and Codington County, South Dakota (Project). The Project would be situated on approximately 53,186-acres in the townships of Waverly, Rauville, Leola, Germantown, Troy, Stockholm, Twin Brooks, and Mazeppa, South Dakota. The total installed capacity of the Project would not exceed 300 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. The Project includes up to 130 wind turbine generators, access roads to turbines and associated facilities, underground 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, underground fiber-optic cable, a 34.5-kV to 345-kV collection substation, one permanent meteorological tower, and an operations and maintenance facility. The Project will utilize the Crowned Ridge 34-mile 230-kV generation tie line and a new reactive power compensation substation to transmit the electricity from the Project's collector substation to the Project's point of interconnection located at the Big Stone South 230-kV Substation, which is owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Applicant has executed a power purchase agreement with Northern States Power Company (NSP) to sell NSP the full output of the Project. The Project is expected to be completed in 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$400 million. On July 26, 2019, the Commission issued a Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facility; Notice of Entry (Final Order).

On October 23, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting 60-Day Extension to Certain Requirements of Permit Condition 45. On October 29, 2019, pursuant to Permit Condition 45, Applicant filed a proposed independent third-party's credentials and lek survey methodology for Commission approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B.

On November 12, 2019, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the third-party's credentials and lek survey methodology. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicants request for approval of the third-party's credentials and lek survey methodology as required in Condition 45 of the Final Order is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of November 2019.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Adam DeHueck</u>
Date: <u>11/14/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner